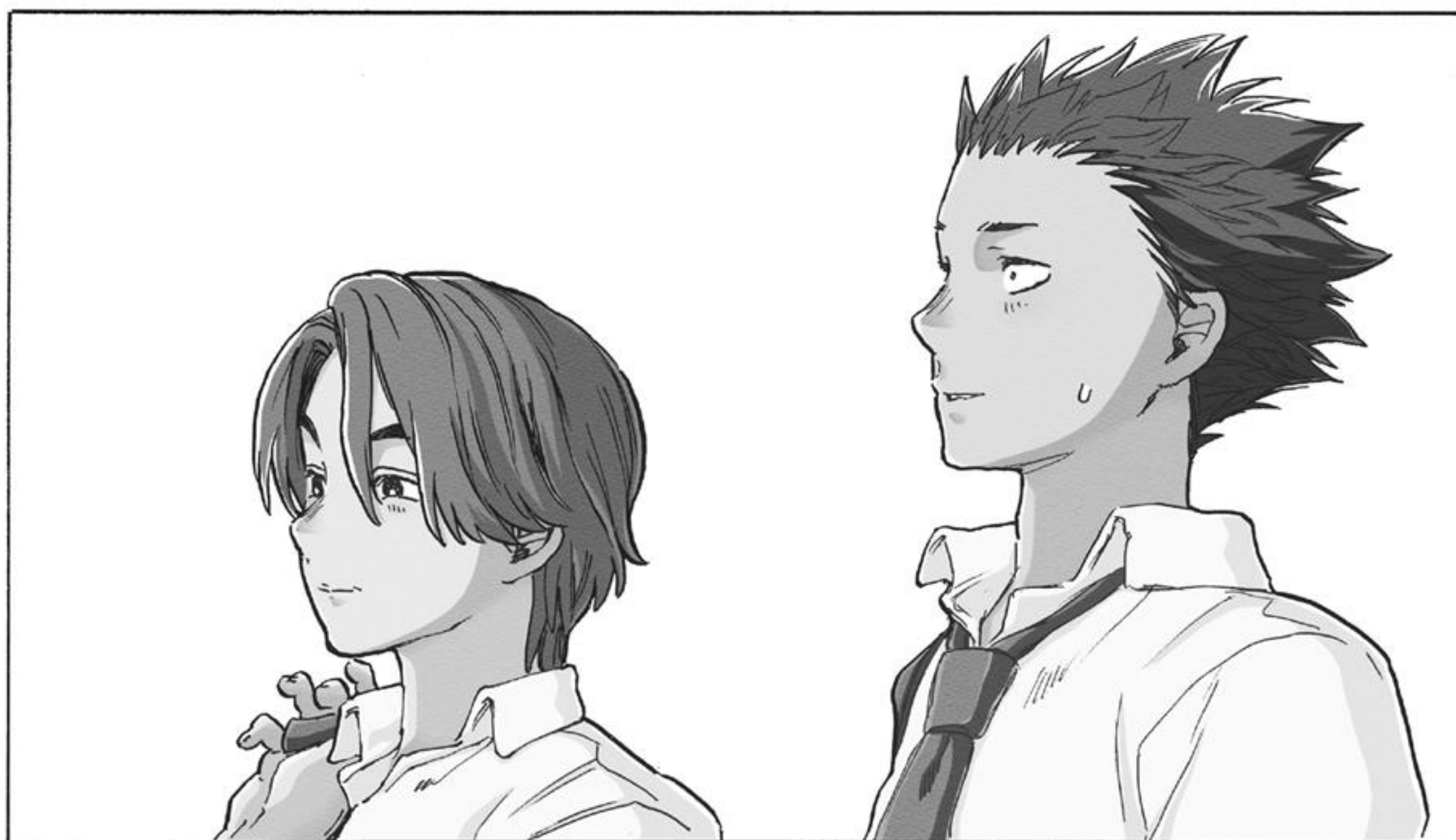


CHAPTER 35: RESPECTABLE



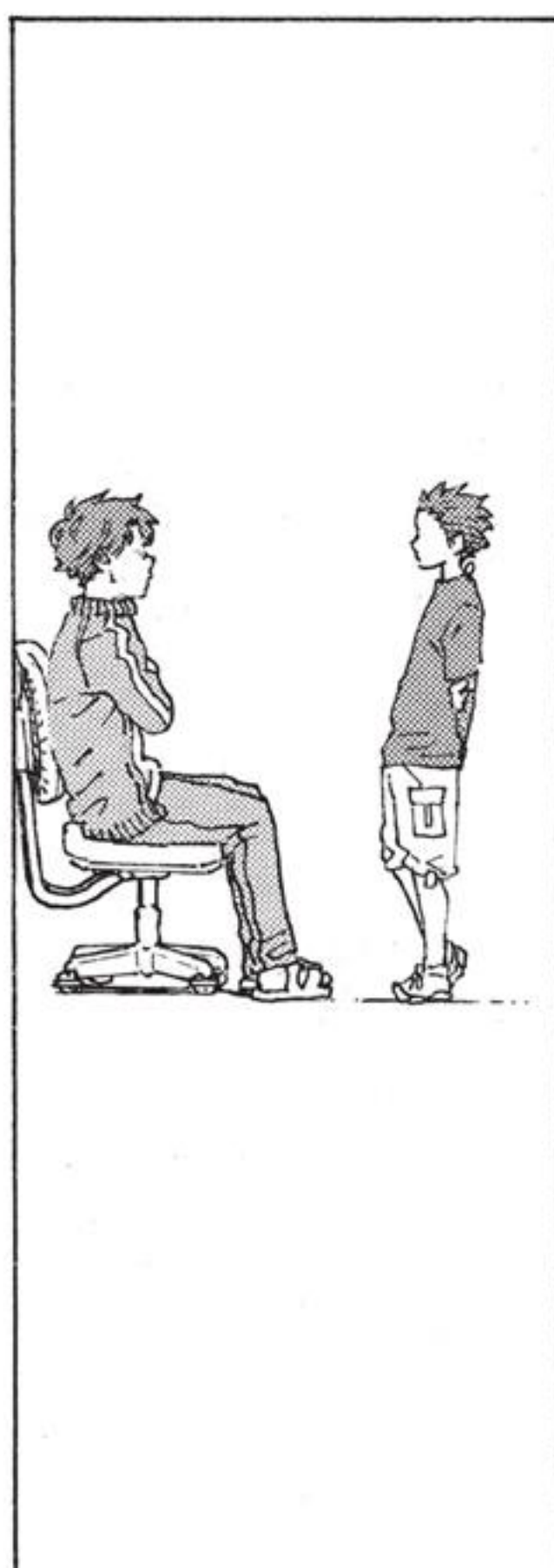
LET'S
GO.

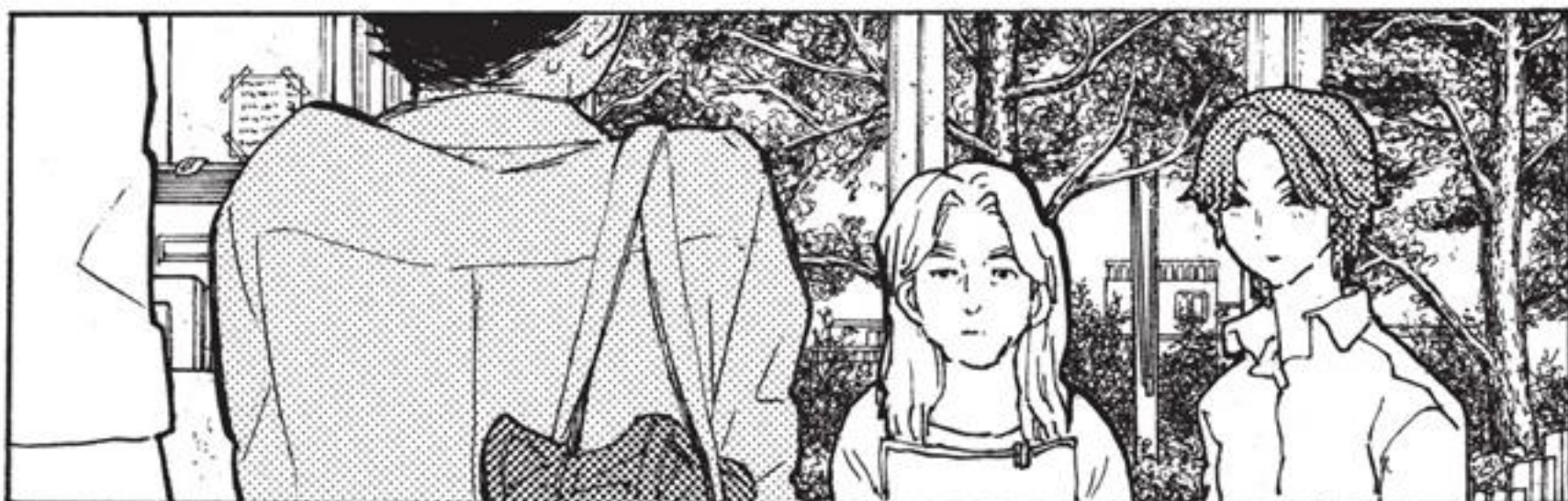


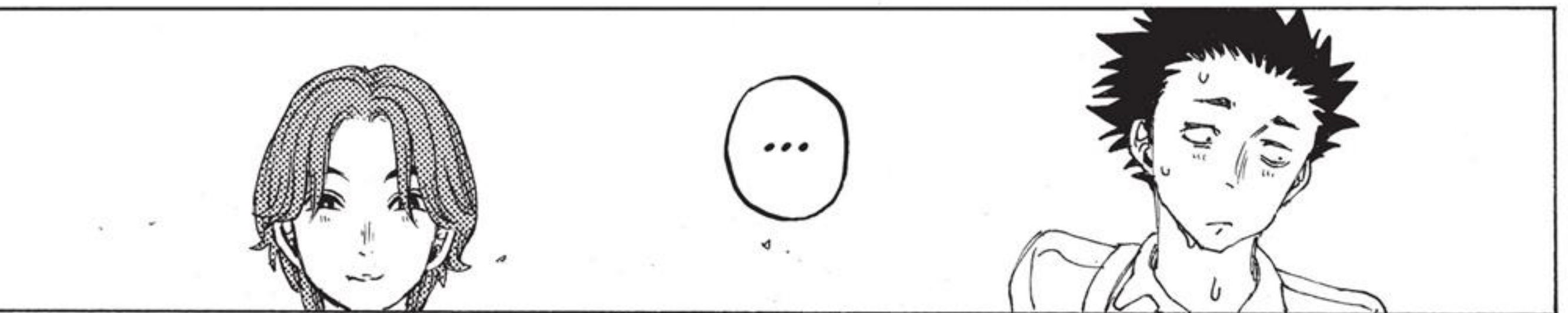
WE'RE
HERE.



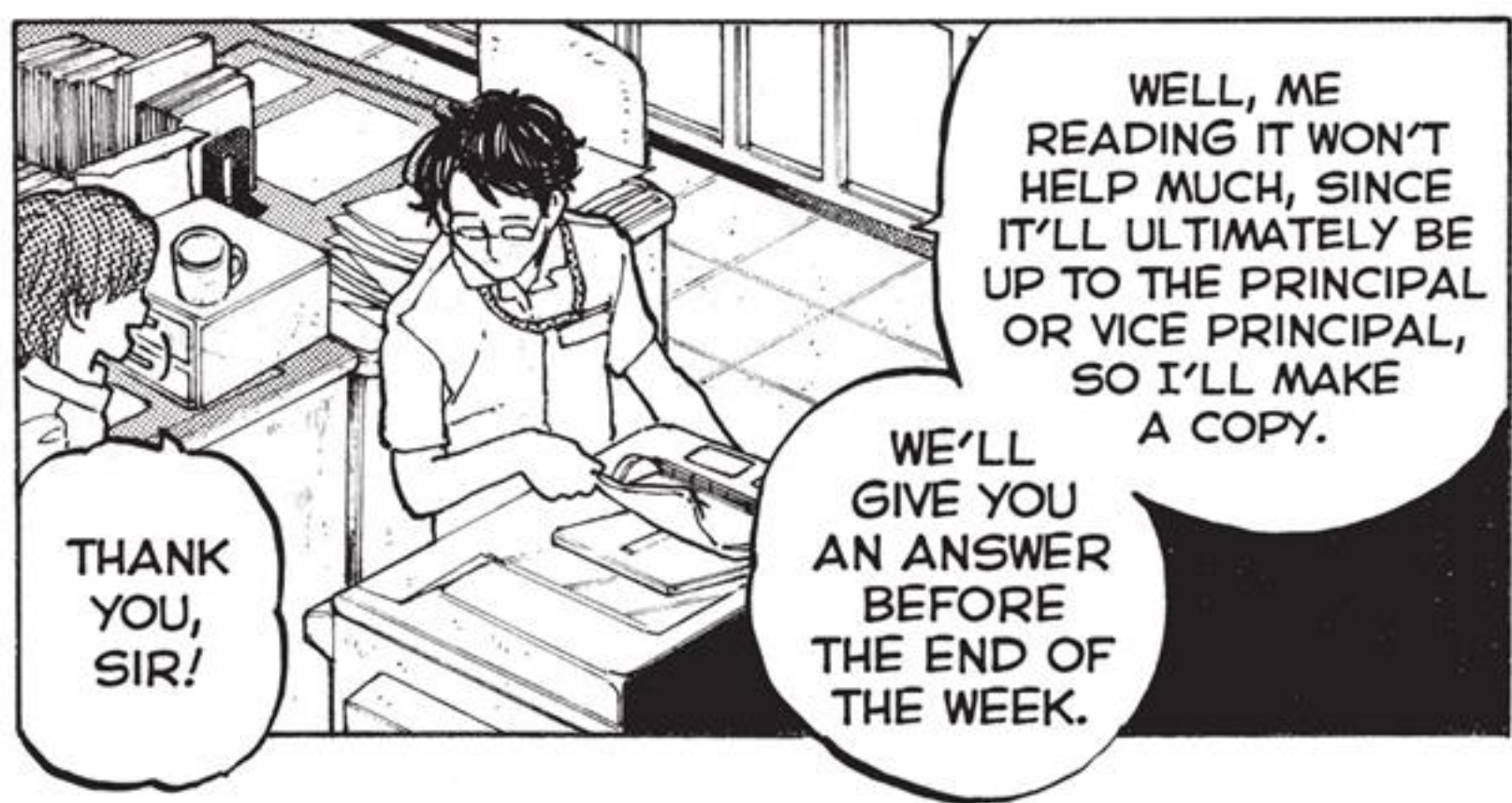
FACULTY OFFICE













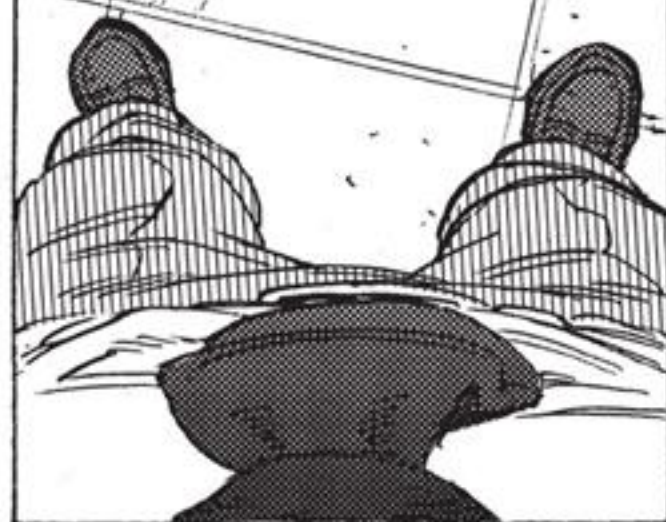
...ALL THAT
TROUBLE
BACK IN
SIXTH GRADE
WAS A GOOD
THING.

WELL, IF
YOU GREW
INTO SUCH
A FINE
YOUNG MAN,
MAYBE...



FROM SEEING
MY UNIFORM?

YOU THINK YOU
CAN FIGURE ME
OUT FROM
MY CLOTHES?



AND HOW CAN
YOU EVEN TELL...

...I TURNED
INTO A FINE
YOUNG MAN
TO BEGIN
WITH?



WHAT WAS
SO GOOD
ABOUT IT?



IT
WASN'T
A GOOD
THING.



AND I
DON'T
WANT TO
THINK SO
EITHER.



I DON'T
THINK...

...I GREW
INTO A
FINE
YOUNG
MAN.

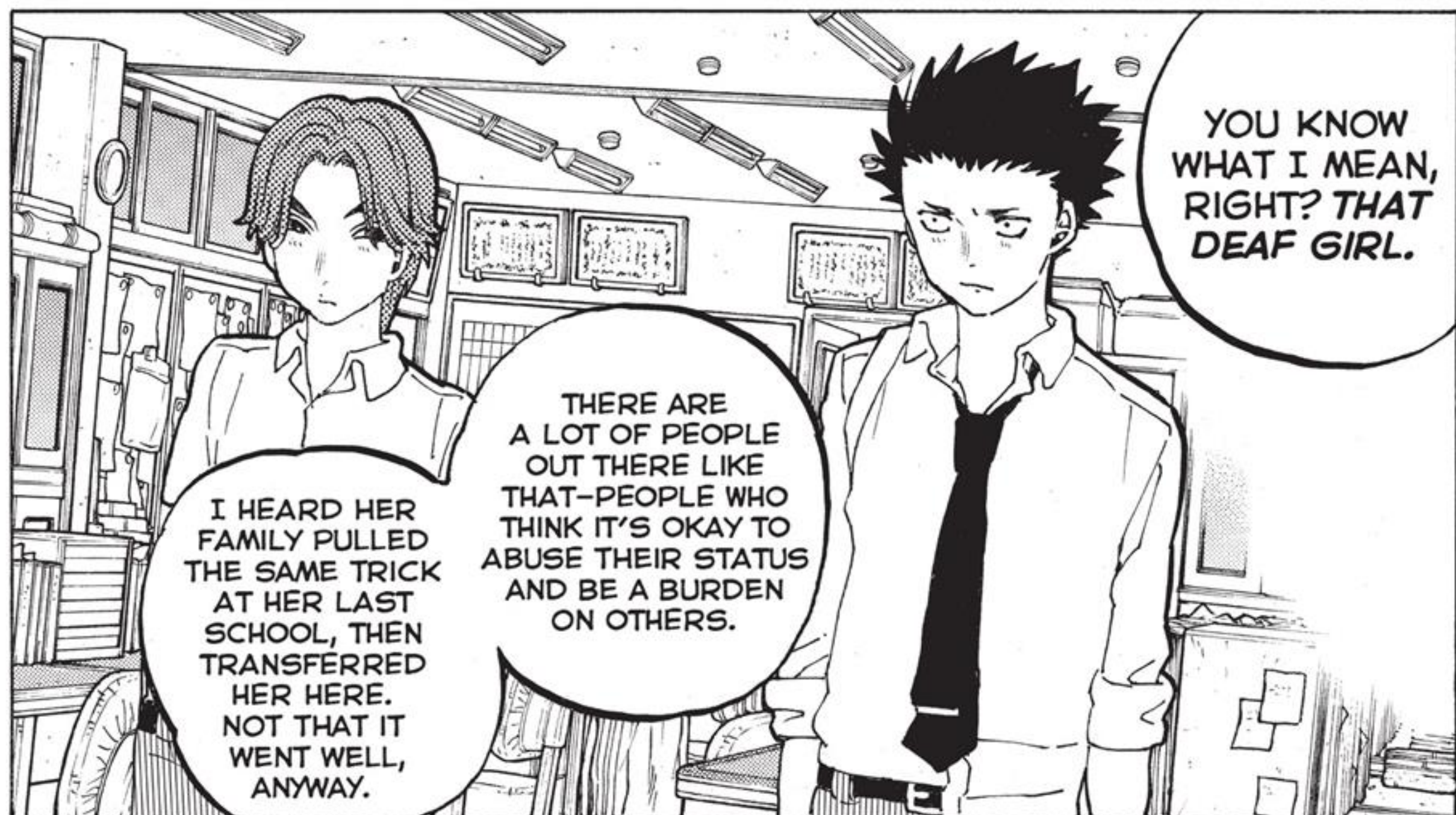


...WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
"SHORT
STRAW"?



WHRRRRR
WHRRRRR
TO BE
HONEST WITH
YOU, THAT CLASS
DREW THE SHORT
STRAW. IT WAS
UNAVOIDABLE
THAT THERE'D BE A
LITTLE TROUBLE.

OH, DON'T
BE SO
HARD ON
YOURSELF.



YOU KNOW
WHAT I MEAN,
RIGHT? *THAT*
DEAF GIRL.

THERE ARE
A LOT OF PEOPLE
OUT THERE LIKE
THAT—PEOPLE WHO
THINK IT'S OKAY TO
ABUSE THEIR STATUS
AND BE A BURDEN
ON OTHERS.

I HEARD HER
FAMILY PULLED
THE SAME TRICK
AT HER LAST
SCHOOL, THEN
TRANSFERRED
HER HERE.
NOT THAT IT
WENT WELL,
ANYWAY.



HERE.

YOU WERE
JUST
UNLUCKY,
SHOYA.

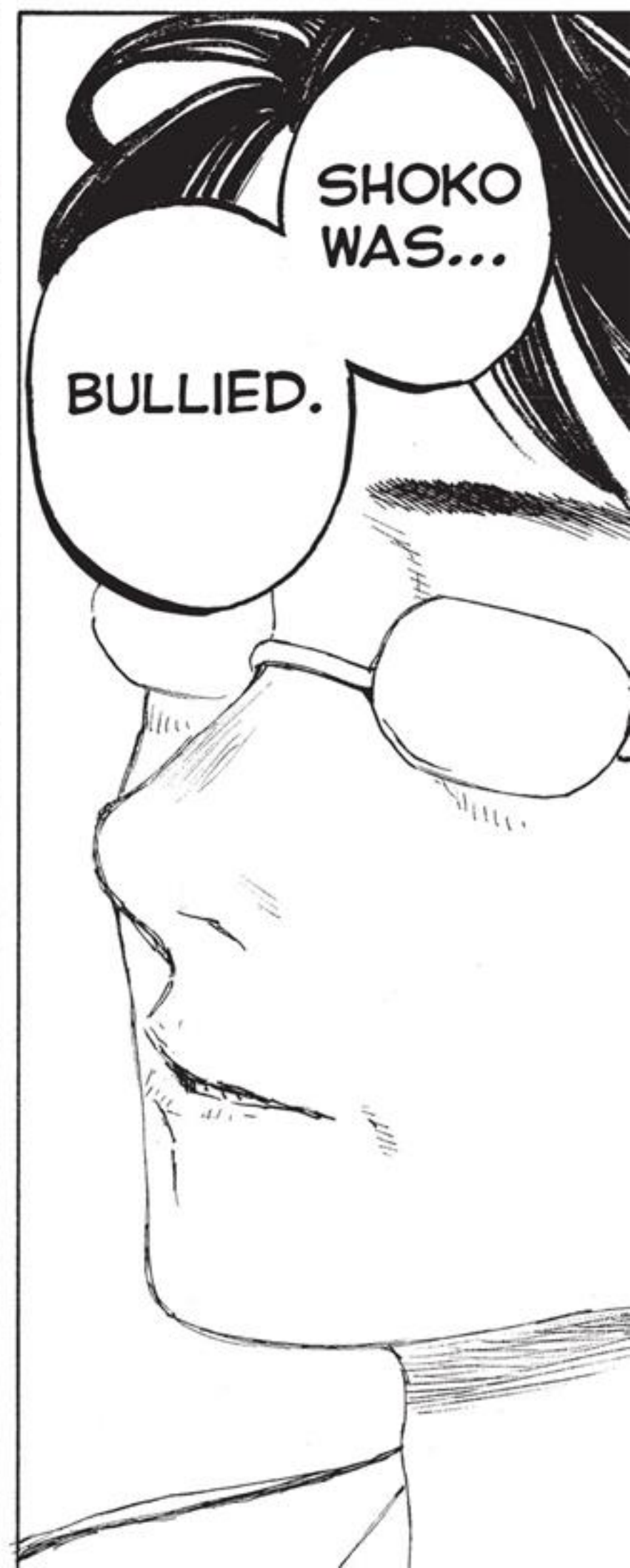
YOU
SEE A
LOT OF
THAT.

BUT,
WELL...

...THAT
THEY WERE
CONFUSING
"FREEDOM"
WITH "TAKING
LIBERTIES."

IF I HADN'T
SUGGESTED SHE
TRANSFER TO
ONE OF THOSE
SPECIAL SCHOOLS,
THEY PROBABLY
NEVER WOULD
HAVE NOTICED...

THUNK



...KNOW
ABOUT
SHOKO?

WHAT WOULD
A JERK WHO
CHANGES
HIS
OPINION OF
SOMEONE
BASED
ONLY ON
THEIR
CLOTHES...

I CAN'T
STAND

...
SHE WAS
A VERY
HARD-
WORKING
AND SWEET
GIRL,
BUT...

...
THIS
GUY.

...UHH,
I JUST
CAN'T DEAL
WITH THIS
GUY...

...WHEN
I WASN'T
AROUND,
PEOPLE
BROKE HER
HEARING
AIDS...

...AND
WERE VIOLENT
TO HER.

WELL,
I CAN'T
GET TOO
SPECIFIC,
BUT...

I WANT TO
LEAVE.

LET'S
GET
OUTTA
HERE.

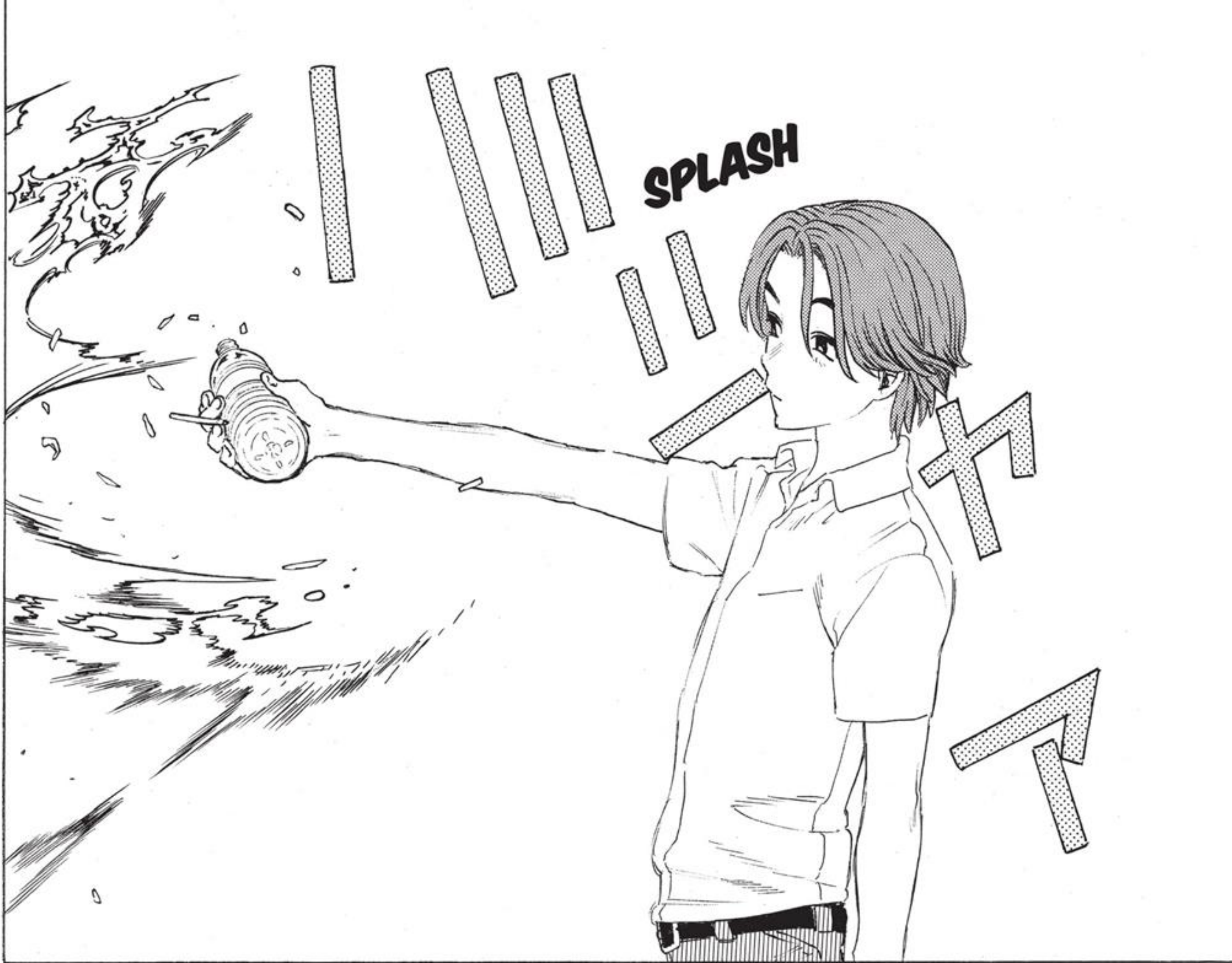
THIS
ISN'T
EVEN
WORTH
LISTENING
TO.

LET'S
JUST GO,
SATOSHI.

EVERYONE
WHO PRETENDED
NOT TO SEE
IT IS JUST
AS GUILTY,
RIGHT?

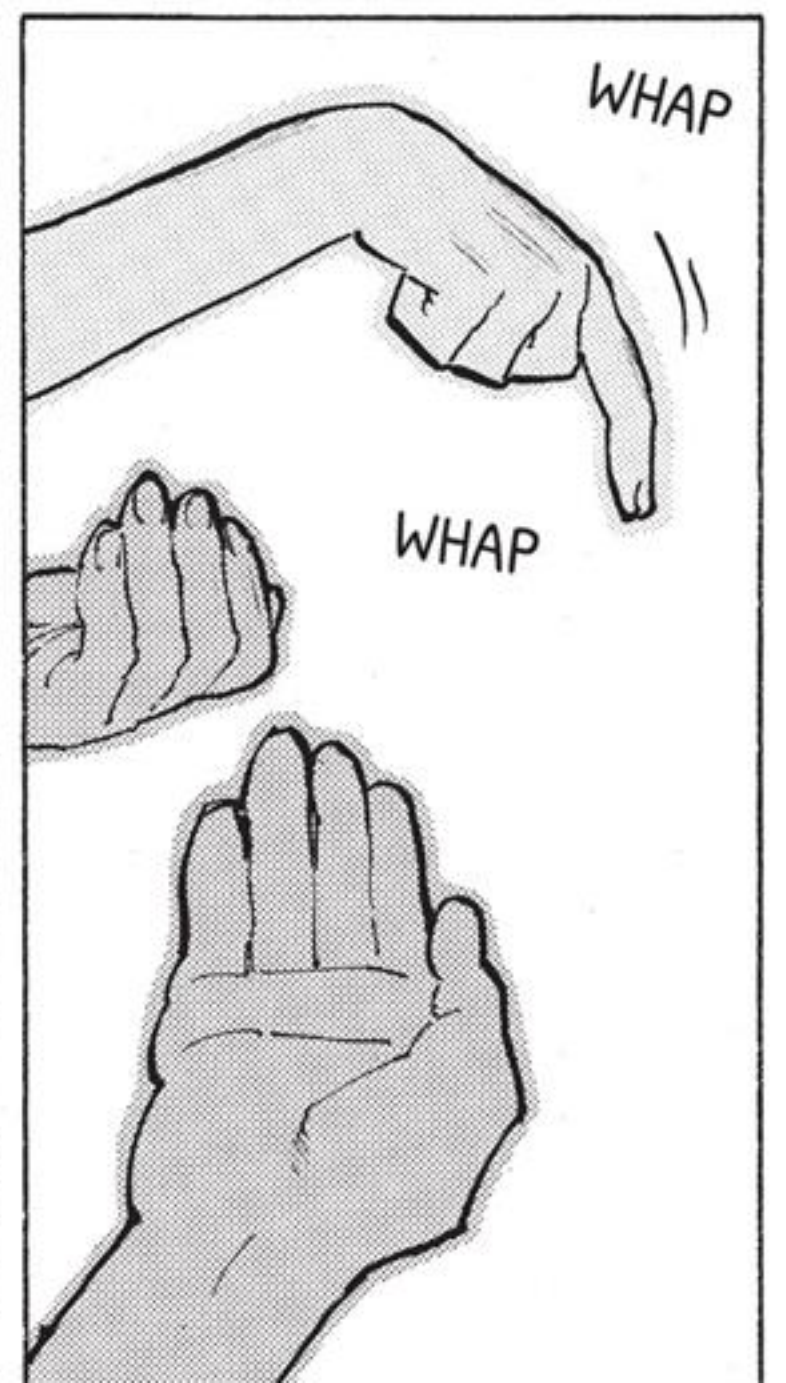
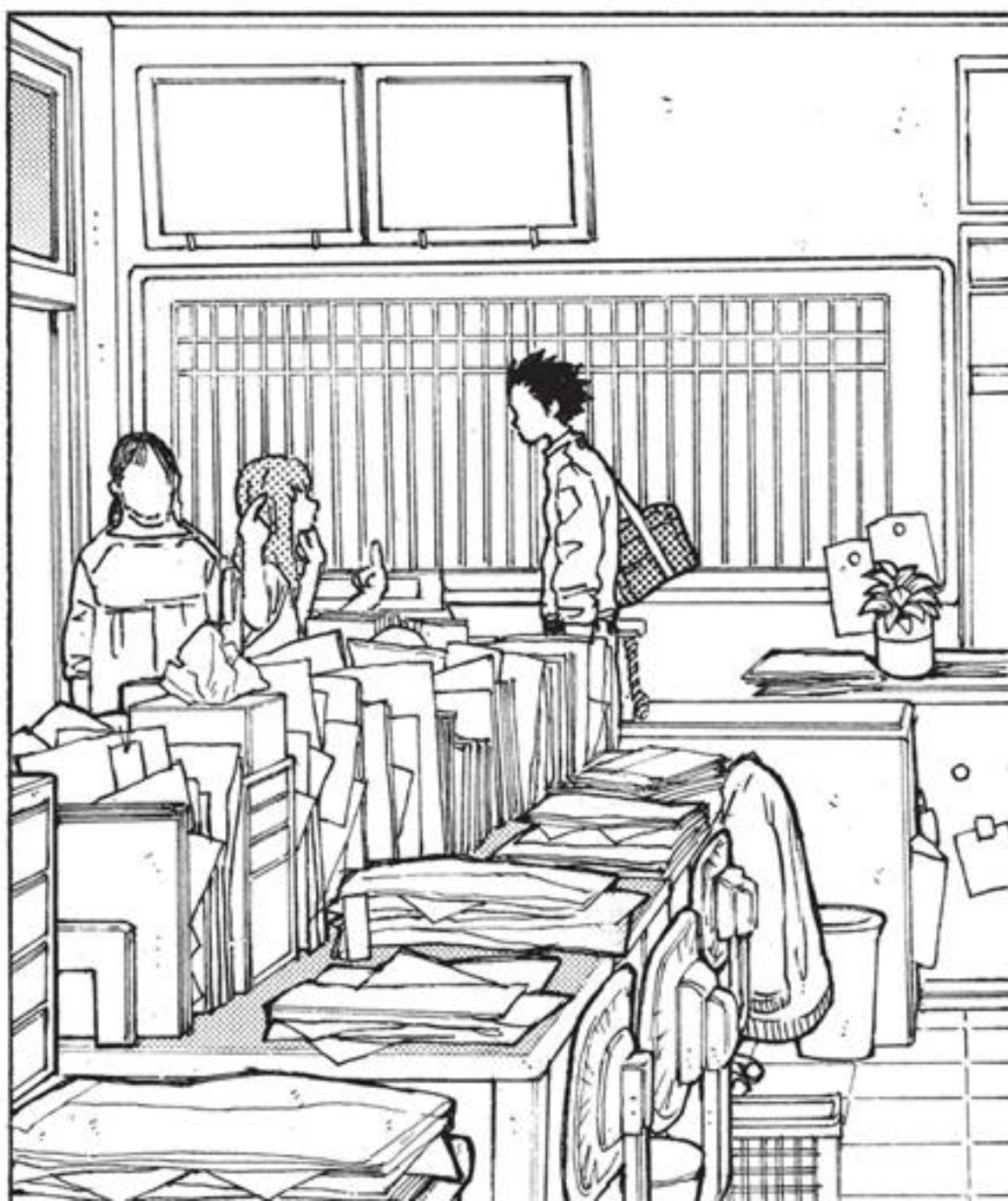
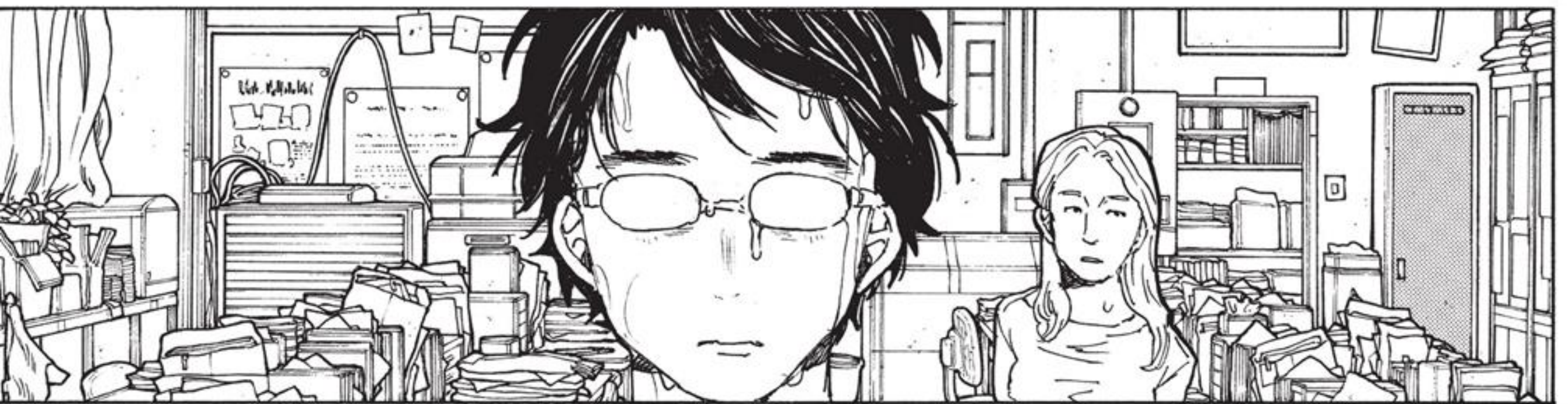
BUT LOOK
AT HOW IT BE-
CAME A STEP-
PING STONE
FOR HIS
GROWTH.

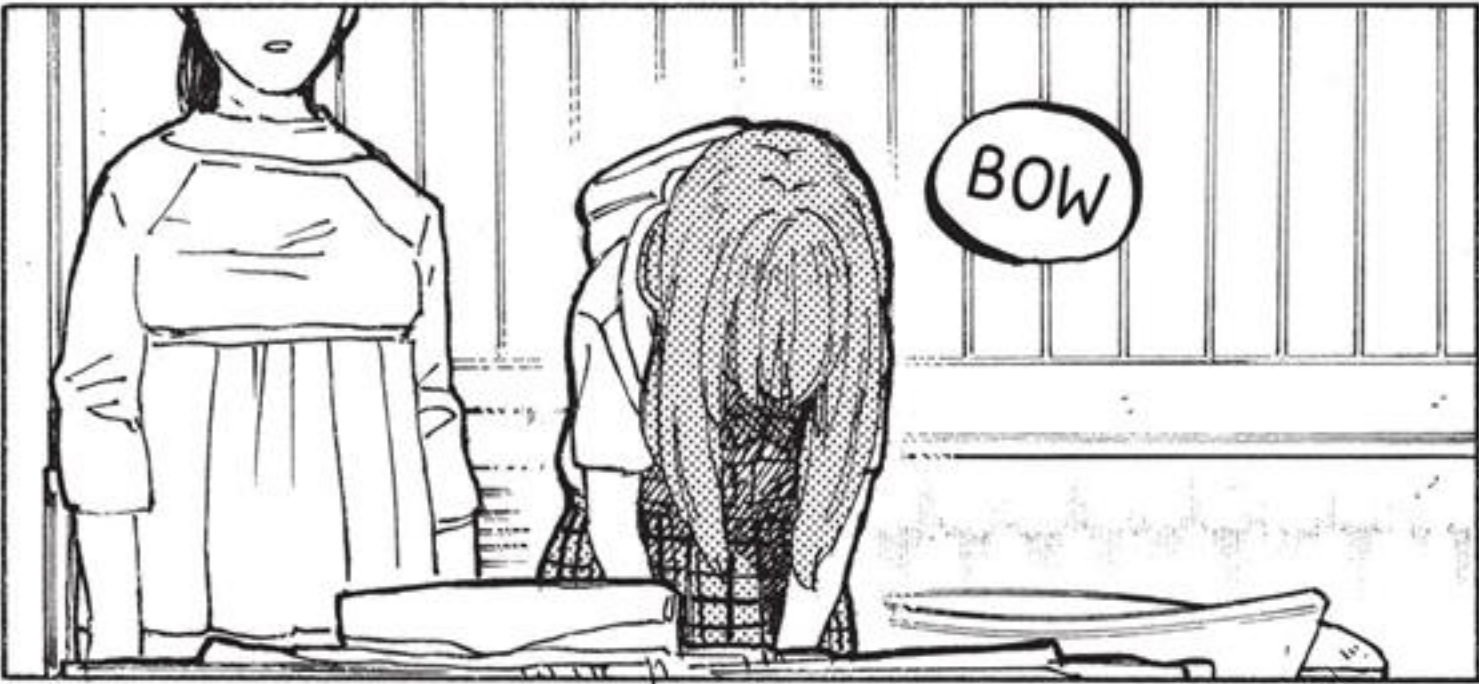
AND
BECAUSE
OF THAT,
SHOYA RAN
INTO SOME
TROUBLE
AS WELL...

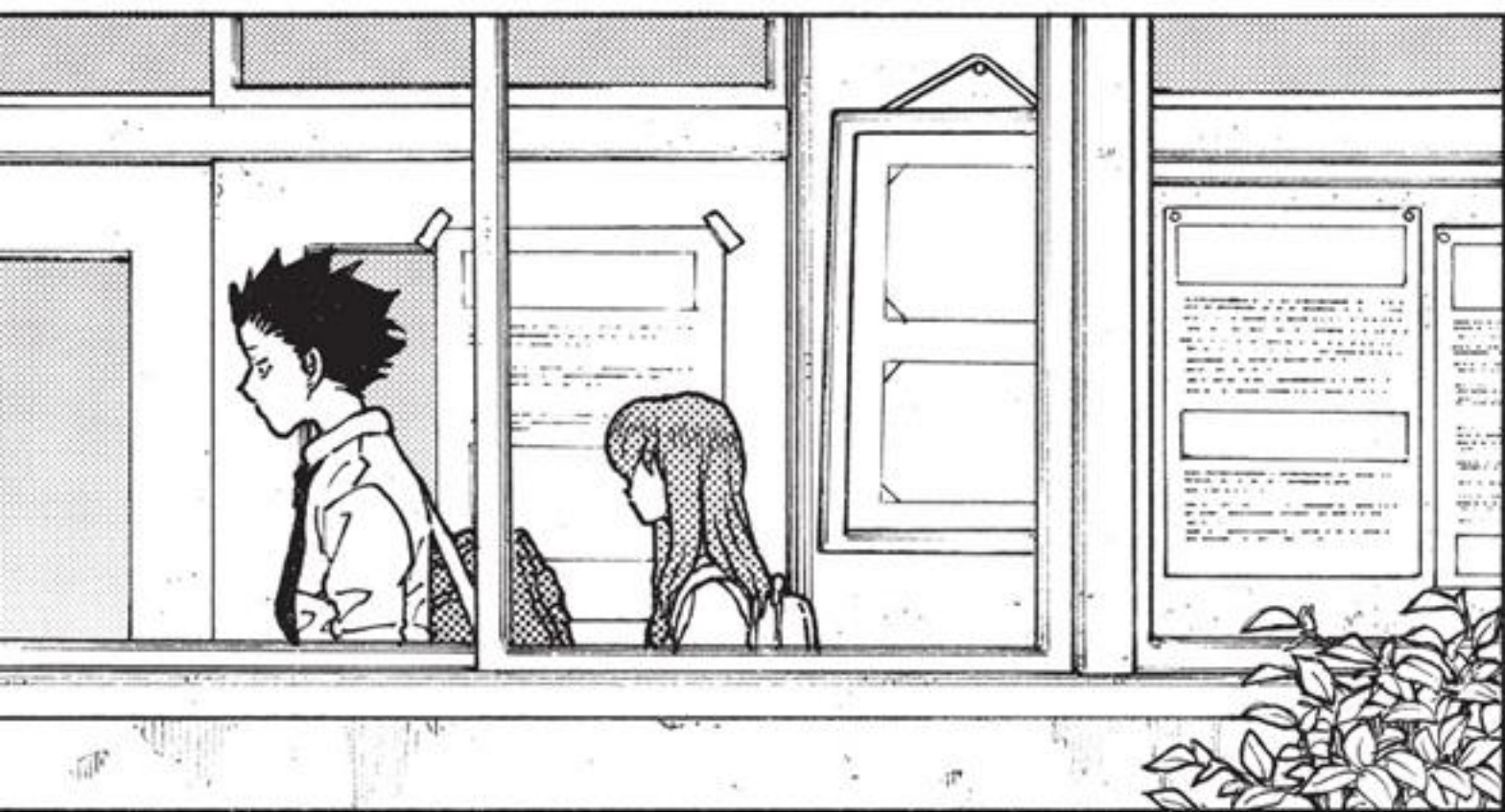


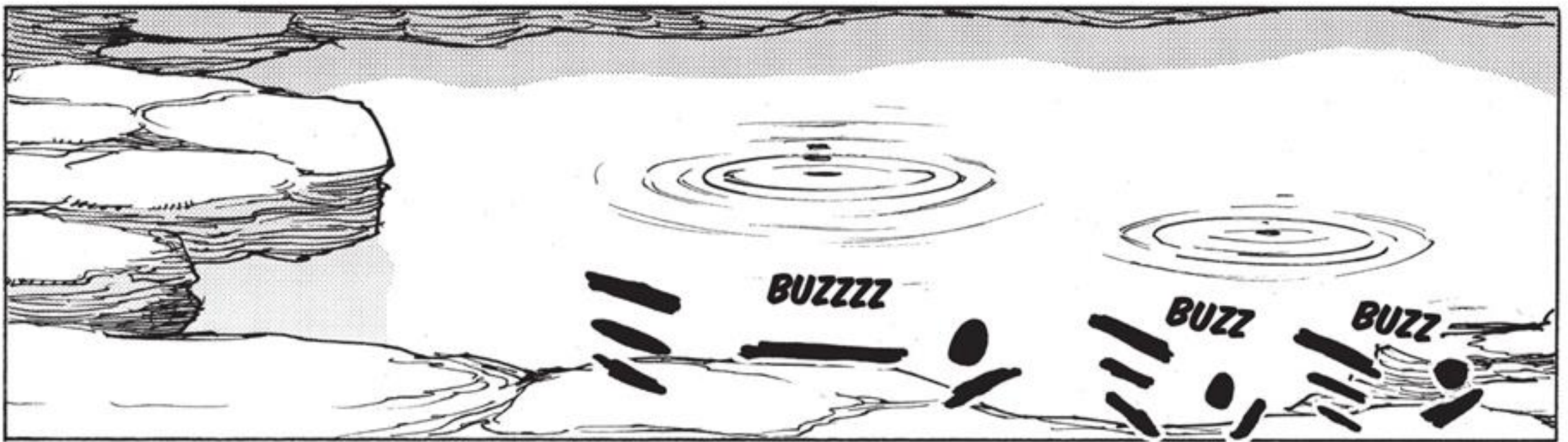
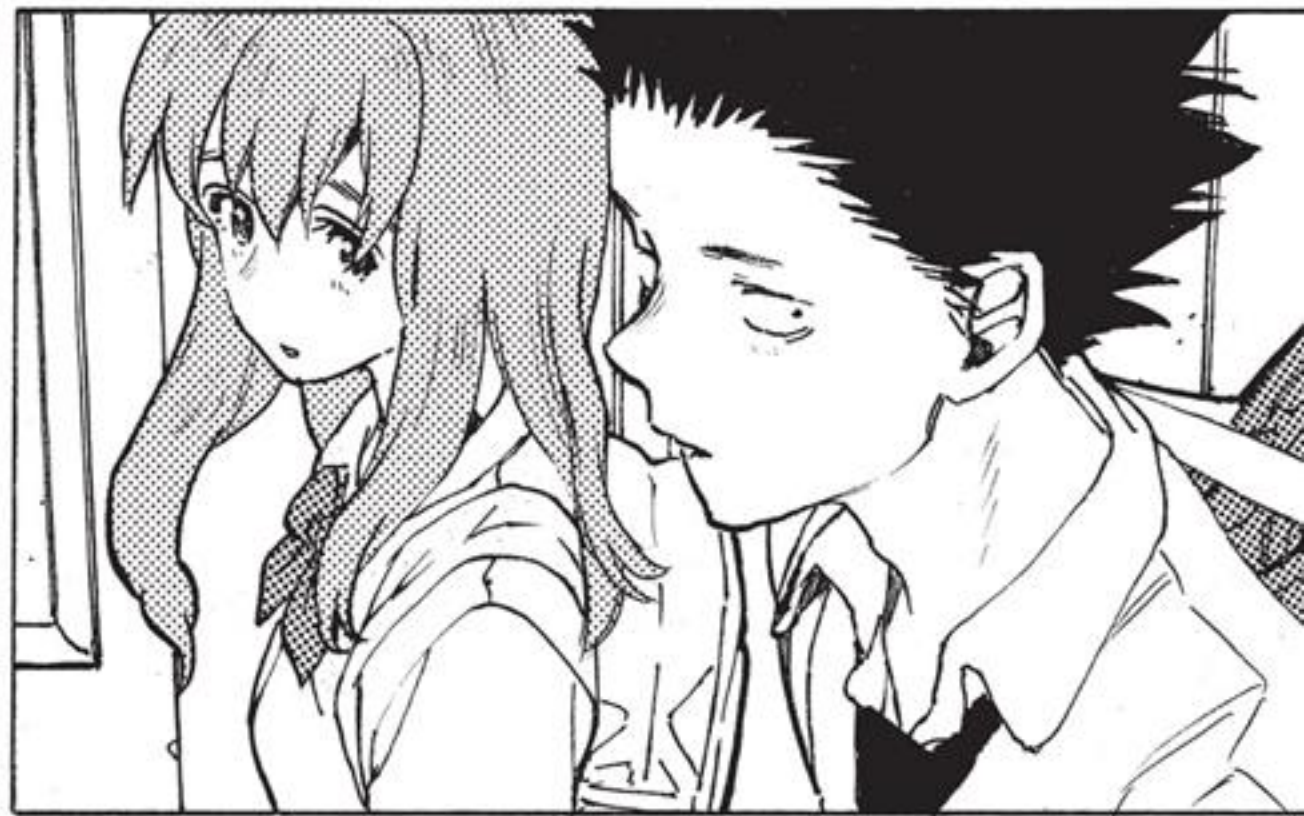


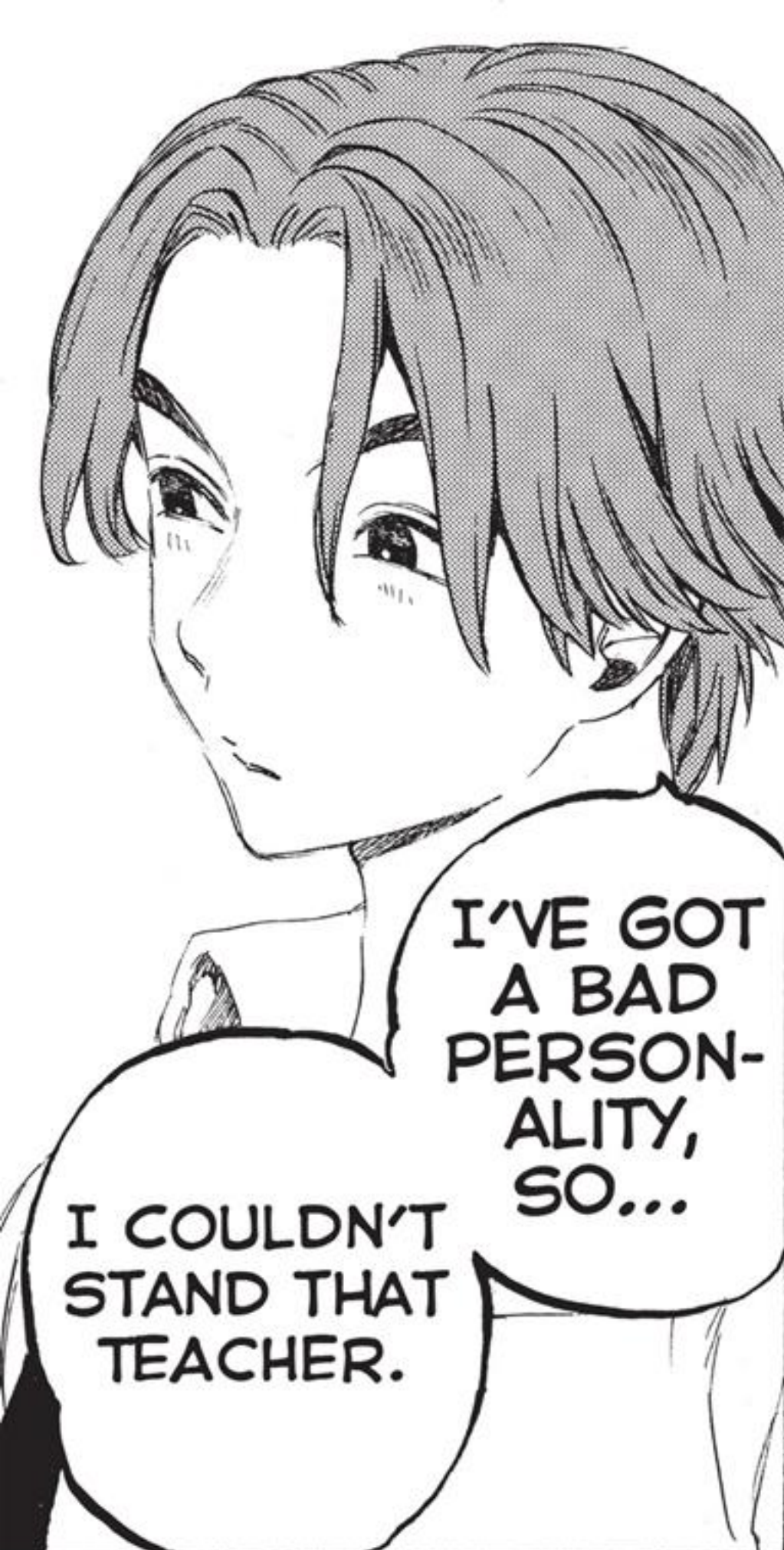












I COULDN'T
STAND THAT
TEACHER.

I'VE GOT
A BAD
PERSON-
ALITY,
SO...



IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT.

SORRY
ABOUT
THAT.

NO,
IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



SHOYA!
SHOKO!



BUZZZZZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

...YEAH.

RIGHT
...

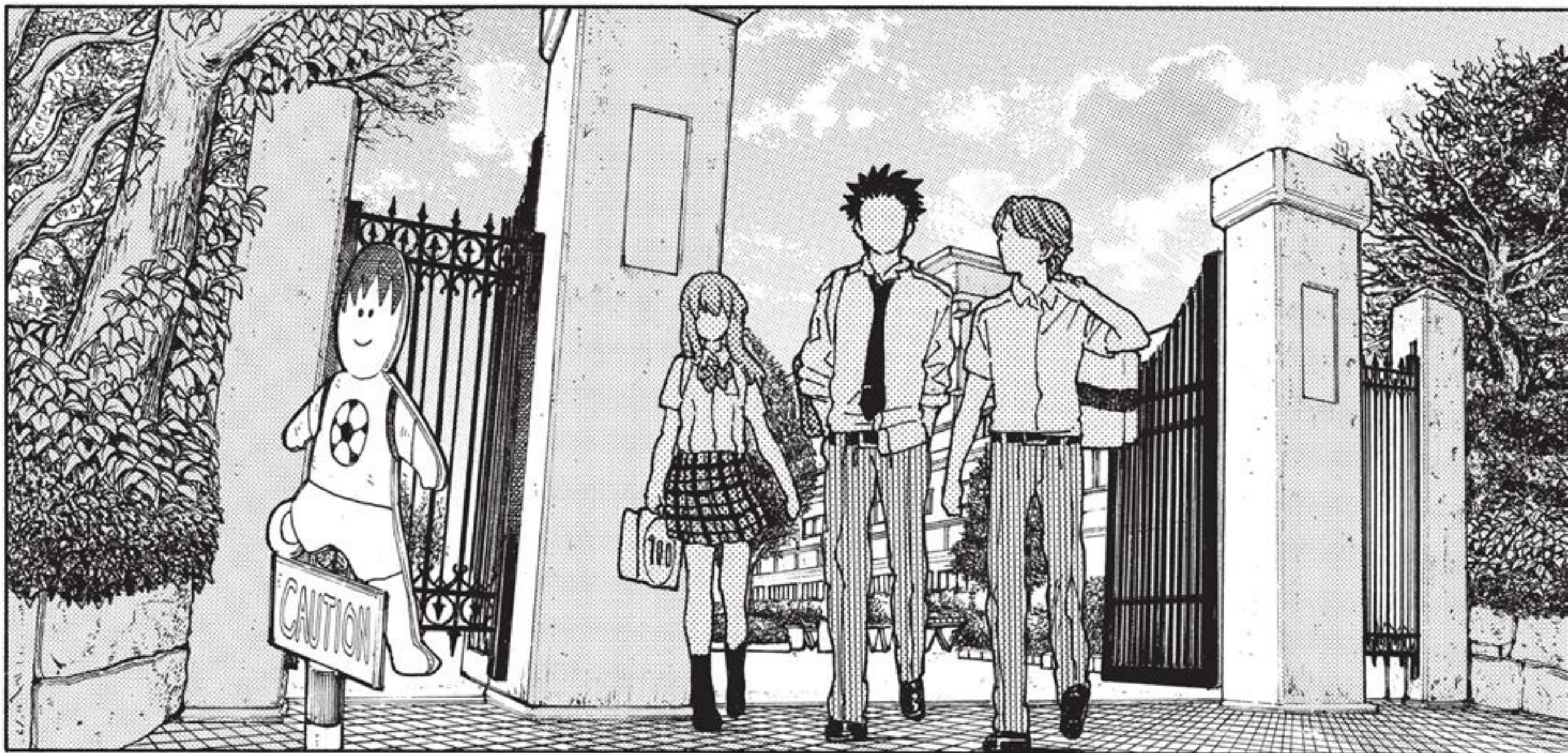


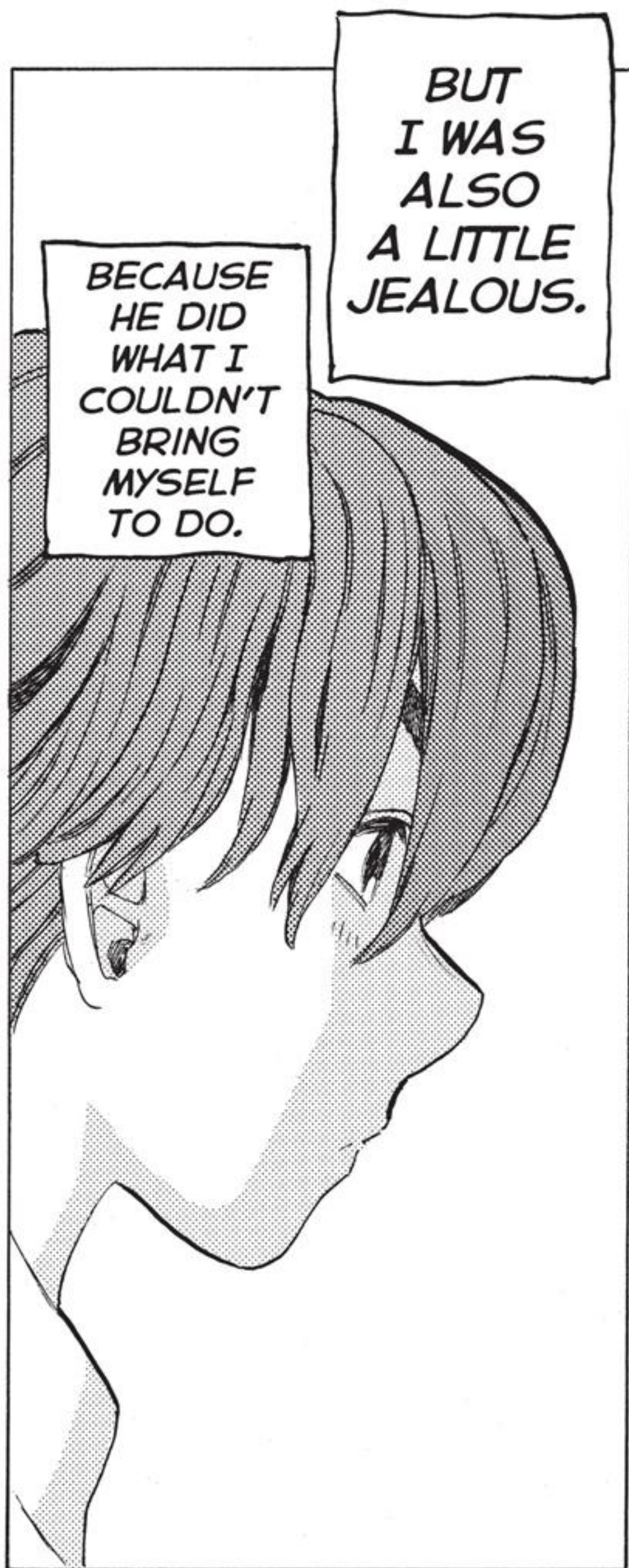
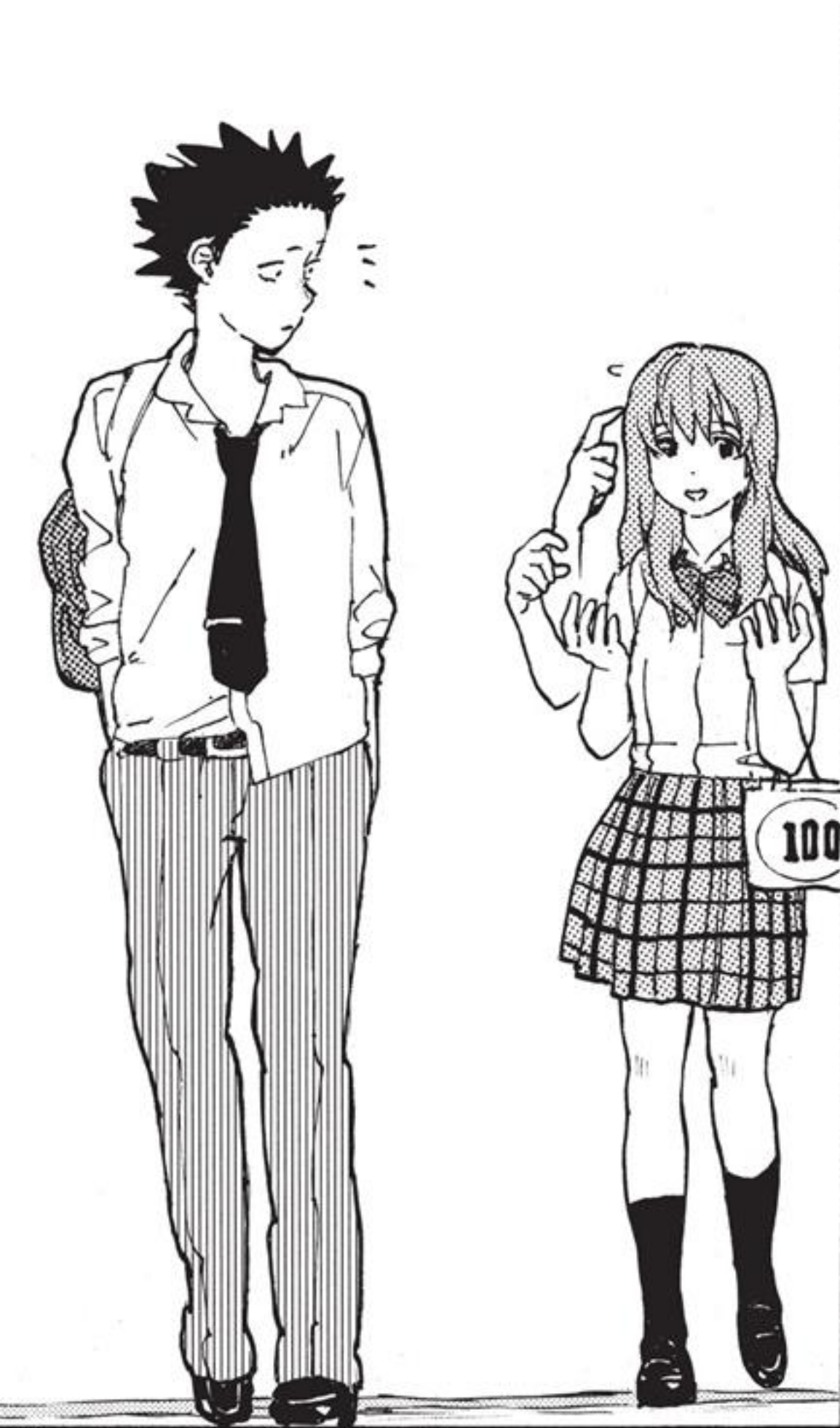
I'LL BEAT
'EM UP
FOR YOU.

SHOKO,
IF YOU
RUN INTO
ANYONE
WHO WAS
MEAN TO
YOU, TELL
ME.



...





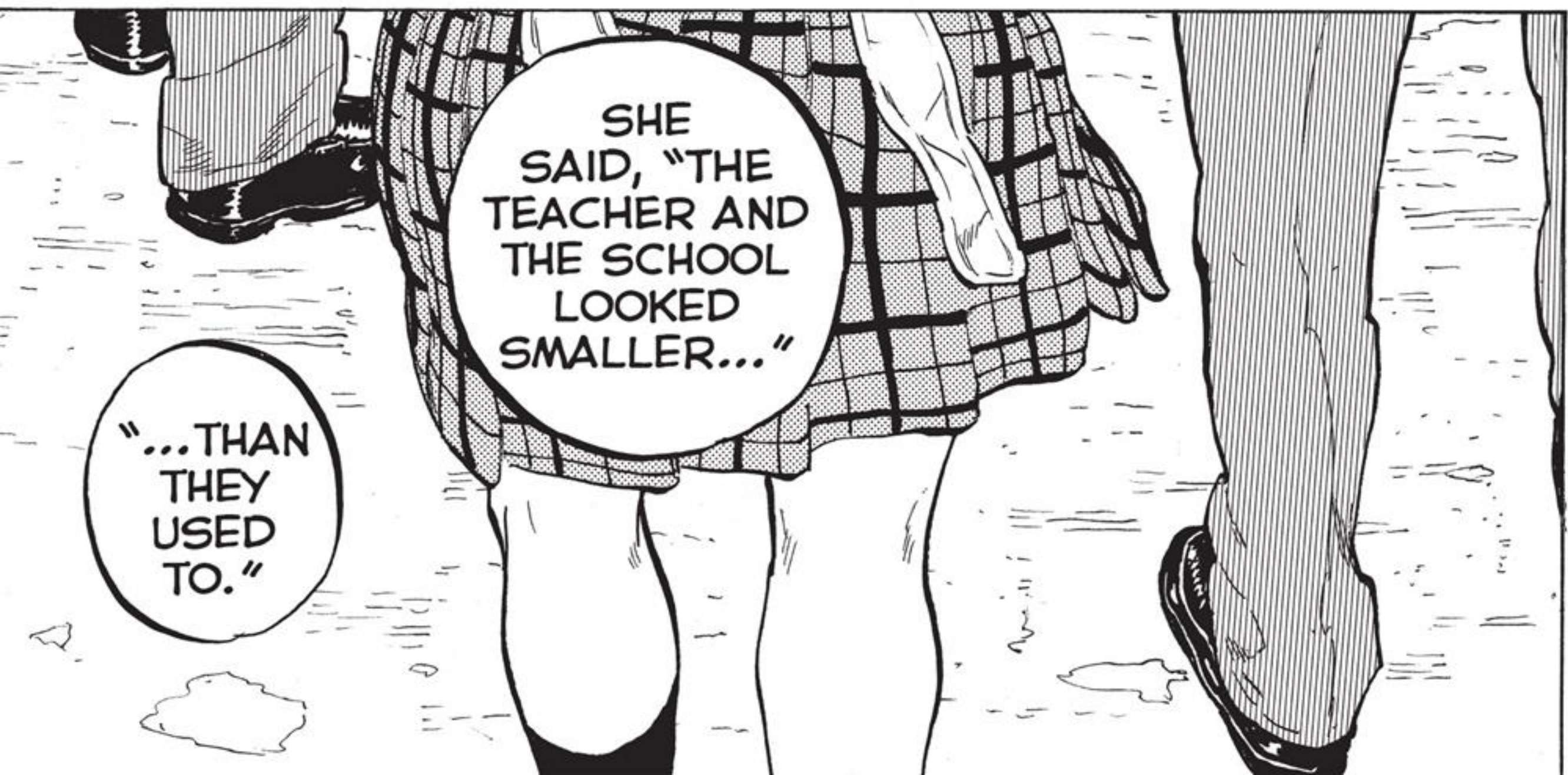
BECAUSE
HE DID
WHAT I
COULDN'T
BRING
MYSELF
TO DO.

BUT
I WAS
ALSO
A LITTLE
JEALOUS.



WHAT
IS IT?
WHAT
DID SHE
SAY?

OH YEAH,
IT HAD BEEN
A WHILE,
HUH?



SHE
SAID, "THE
TEACHER AND
THE SCHOOL
LOOKED
SMALLER..."

"...THAN
THEY
USED
TO."

